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# West waking up to Soviet tactics

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The use of deception and disinformation has been an instrument of Soviet policy since the Bolshevik seizure of power. Until recently, however, there has been very little systematic study of this aspect of Soviet foreign policy, according to Professor Roy Godson of Georgetown University's Department of Government.

"We have tended to study the Soviet Union in recent decades by considering it as a state like all others, which in fact it is not," Mr. Godson said. "The Communist Party has used not only the traditional instruments of statecraft, such as diplomacy, state-to-state negotiations, military and economic assistance, but it has supplemented them with the use of deception and disinformation as an instrument of power. We are only beginning now to understand how important these tools are."

In this system of deception, front organizations form a crucial component. In the 1920s, Willi Munzenberg, the Comintern specialist on international fronts — or "innocents' clubs," as he called them — exhorted his comrades to "penetrate every conceivable milieu, get hold of artists and professors, make use of cinemas and theatres and spread the doctrine abroad that Russia is prepared to do everything to keep the world at peace." And his colleague, Finnish communist leader Otto Kuusinen recommended the cre-

ation of a "solar system" of organizations and smaller committees around the Communist Party, under its influence but not under its direct control.

The most important of the post-World War II fronts is the World Peace Council, founded by Moscow in 1949 to launch the Stockholm Peace Appeal the following year — a Soviet-coordinated effort that demanded the banning of atomic weapons. WPC now has 137 national branches, including the U.S. Peace Council.

Its president is Indian communist Romesh Chandra, but its real leader is Vitaly Shaposhnikov, a deputy head in the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee. The organization has twice been booted out of Western capitals for its subversive activities, and now has its headquarters in Helsinki, Finland.

During Yuri Andropov's tenure at the KGB there was a spectacular elaboration of this idea. Then a host of smaller groups was added, usually with the words "peace" or "concerned" prominently displayed in their names.

Their value today is still best summed up by General Georgi Dimitrov, who said to a Comintern Congress in 1938: "One sympathizer is worth more than a dozen militant communists. A writer of reputation or a retired general are worth more than 500 poor devils who won't know any better than to get themselves beaten up by the police."